

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An envelope comprising:

a front surface; and

a first window providing a covered opening in said front surface, wherein said first window is disposed in a predetermined position of said front surface to facilitate placing postage indicia in juxtaposition therewith to thereby allow viewing of said postage indicia through said first window.

2. The envelope of claim 1, wherein said postage indicia is affixed to a postal item inserted into said envelope.

3. The envelope of claim 2, wherein said postal item is a computer generated document, and wherein said postage indicia is printed directly upon said document at a time of printing said computer generated document.

4. The envelope of claim 1, wherein said postage indicia includes a machine readable portion.

5. The envelope of claim 4, wherein said machine readable portion comprises a two dimensional bar code.

6. The envelope of claim 1, wherein said covered opening comprises a transparent covering material.

7. The envelope of claim 6, wherein said transparent covering material comprises glassine.

8. The envelope of claim 6, wherein said transparent covering material protects said postage indicia from inadvertent detachment.

9. The envelope of claim 6, wherein said transparent covering material protects said postage indicia from adverse conditions.

10. The envelope of claim 1, wherein said predetermined position comprises an upper right hand corner of said front surface when said front surface is properly oriented to read information of said postage indicia.

11. The envelope of claim 1, further comprising:  
a second window disposed in a predetermined position of said front surface to facilitate placing addressee information in juxtaposition therewith to thereby allow viewing of said addressee information through said second window.

12. The envelope of claim 11, wherein said postage indicia and said addressee information is affixed to a postal item inserted into said envelope.

13. The envelope of claim 11, further comprising:  
a third window disposed in a predetermined position of said front surface to facilitate placing sender information in juxtaposition therewith to thereby allow viewing of said sender information through said third window.

14. The envelope of claim 13, wherein said postage indicia and said sender information is affixed to a postal item inserted into said envelope.

15. The envelope of claim 13, wherein said third window predetermined position comprises an upper left hand corner of said front surface when said front surface is properly oriented to read information of said postage indicia.

16. A method of providing a mail item for posting with a mail delivery service, said method comprising:

generating a piece of correspondence;

placing postage indicia on said correspondence; and

inserting said correspondence into an envelope such that said postage indicia is disposed in juxtaposition with a window of said envelope providing a covered opening.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said generating said piece of correspondence comprises:

printing said piece of correspondence using a computer system, wherein said postage indicia is also printed using said computer system.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said affixing said postage indicia comprises:

printing said postage indicia simultaneously with printing said piece of correspondence.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein said postage indicia includes a machine readable portion.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said machine readable portion comprises a two dimensional bar code.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein said covered opening comprises a transparent covering material.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said transparent covering material comprises glassine.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein said transparent covering material protects said postage indicia from inadvertent detachment.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein said transparent covering material protects said postage indicia from adverse conditions.

25. A mail item comprising:

a piece of correspondence having a postage indicia thereon;

an envelope having at least a first covered window portion and incarcerating said piece of correspondence, wherein said piece of correspondence is disposed in a predetermined orientation to place said postage indicia in juxtaposition with said first covered window to thereby allow viewing of said postage indicia when said piece of correspondence is incarcerated in said envelope.

26. The mail item of claim 25, wherein said piece of correspondence and the postage indicia thereon are printed by a computer system.

27. The mail item of claim 25, wherein said envelope has a second window portion, wherein said piece of correspondence is disposed in said predetermined orientation to place second information in juxtaposition with said second window when said postage indicia is in juxtaposition with said first covered window to thereby allow viewing of said second information when said piece of correspondence is incarcerated in said envelope.

28. The mail item of claim 27, wherein said second information comprises at least one of an addressor's address and an addressee's address.

29. The mail item of claim 27, wherein said envelope has a third window portion, wherein said piece of correspondence is disposed in said predetermined orientation to place third information in juxtaposition with said third window when said postage indicia is in juxtaposition with said first covered window to thereby allow viewing of said third information when said piece of correspondence is incarcerated in said envelope.

30. The mail item of claim 29, wherein said second information comprises an addressor's address and said third information comprises an addressee's address.

31. The mail item of claim 25, wherein said covered window portion comprises a transparent covering material.

32. The mail item of claim 31, wherein said transparent covering material comprises glassine.

33. The mail item of claim 31, wherein said transparent covering material protects said postage indicia from inadvertent detachment.

34. The mail item of claim 31, wherein said transparent covering material protects said postage indicia from adverse conditions.

35. The mail item of claim 25, wherein said first covered window portion is disposed in a face of said envelope in an upper right hand corner of said envelope face when said envelope is properly oriented to read information of said postage indicia.

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36. A method of providing a mail item for posting with a mail delivery service, said method comprising:

generating a piece of correspondence having a postage indicia thereon using a computer system; and

inserting said correspondence into an envelope such that said postage indicia is disposed in juxtaposition with a transparent window of said envelope.